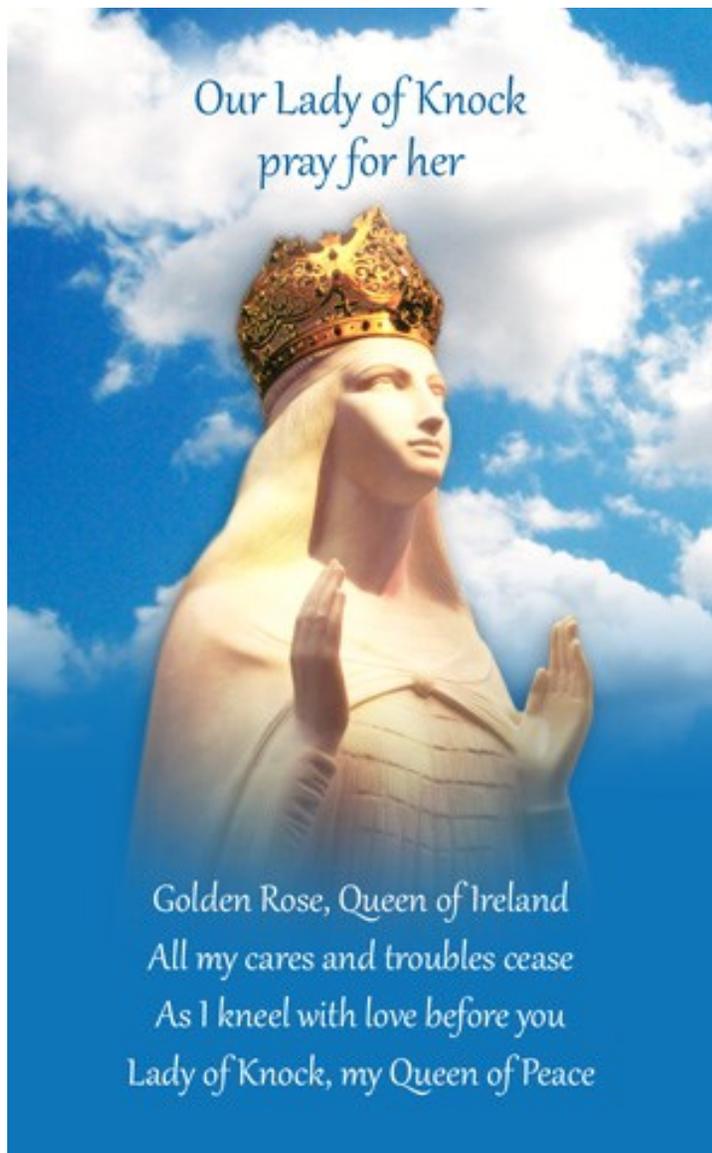


The word Novena derives its name from the Latin word "novem" meaning "nine." A novena can be either a private or public devotion in the Catholic Church to obtain special graces.



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Novena for the Church of Ireland

Recited from: August 7th through August 15th



An invitation to join a special novena for the Irish Church, 7th – 15th August

This novena is inspired by the Holy Fathers wishes expressed in his challenging Letter to the Faithful of Ireland that is being so widely ignored or misconstrued in Ireland.

There are three intentions:

1. We pray in atonement for the sins of the Church in Ireland and for all those who were hurt.
- 2) We pray for all of our priests and bishops, the guilty that they might find God's mercy and the innocent that God might support them in this difficult time.
- 3) We pray for the healing and renewal of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

If everyone who wants to join in could pray the rosary on each day (or even just a decade of the rosary) for these intentions and if you can; the Pope's prayer for the Church in Ireland, which is below, and finally just offer up your Mass on the feast of the Assumption (August 15) for these intentions.

Prayer for the Church in Ireland

God of our fathers,
renew us in the faith which is our life and salvation,
the hope which promises forgiveness and interior renewal,
the charity which purifies and opens our hearts
to love you, and in you, each of our brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus Christ,
may the Church in Ireland renew her age-old commitment
to the education of our young people in the way of truth and goodness,
holiness and generous service to society.

Holy Spirit, comforter, advocate and guide,
inspire a new springtime of holiness and apostolic zeal
for the Church in Ireland.

May our sorrow and our tears,
our sincere effort to redress past wrongs,
and our firm purpose of amendment
bear an abundant harvest of grace
for the deepening of the faith
in our families, parishes, schools and communities,
for the spiritual progress of Irish society,
and the growth of charity ,justice, joy and peace
within the whole human family.

To you, Triune God,

confident in the loving protection of Mary,
Queen of Ireland, our Mother,
and of Saint Patrick, Saint Brigid and all the saints,
do we entrust ourselves, our children,
and the needs of the Church in Ireland.

Amen.

*The Pastoral letter of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland can be viewed at the following website:
www.vatican.va/holy-father/benedict-xvi/letters/2010/documents/hf-ben-xvi_let_20100319_church-ireland_en.html